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**From:** Enck, Judith  
**Sent:** Wed 7/27/2016 8:09:04 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Personal injury complaint filed in N.Y. over Teflon chemical

**From:** Mongelli, Thomas  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 27, 2016 4:06 PM  
**To:** Enck, Judith <Enck.Judith@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Personal injury complaint filed in N.Y. over Teflon chemical

## Personal injury complaint filed in N.Y. over Teflon chemical

 [greennews.net/greenwire/2016/07/27/stories/1060040875](http://greennews.net/greenwire/2016/07/27/stories/1060040875)

A Hoosick Falls, N.Y., resident has filed the first personal injury complaint related to drinking water contamination in the Northeastern village.

James Donovan is suing two manufacturers of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), claiming the contamination of the Hoosick Falls aquifer with the chemical triggered his ulcerative colitis, a potential precursor to colon cancer.

Donovan, who says his health took a turn for the worse in 2011, is asking for \$2.5 million in relief to compensate for medical costs, the decrease in property value, and pain and suffering associated with his illness.

The companies' failure to properly manage the waste "amounts to an extreme departure from what a reasonably careful person would do in the same situation to prevent harm to others," according to the complaint.

A New York judge also issued the briefing schedule today for a separate class action lawsuit by Hoosick Falls residents against the companies.

The link to ulcerative colitis is based on peer-reviewed studies from the C8 Science Panel, a group of scientists studying the health effects of PFOA exposure in communities around the Washington Works plant in Parkersburg, W.Va. The plant is owned by chemical giant Dupont.

The complaint is being brought against Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics Corp. and Honeywell International Inc., manufacturers of the chemical to make Teflon, the nonstick substance used to coat pans and clothing.

There's no legal standard limiting PFOA in drinking water, but the chemical has been linked to health

problems -- organ damage, cancer and birth defects -- in laboratory animals.

U.S. EPA issued a health advisory in May to guide water systems in limiting concentrations of PFOA and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) in drinking water to 70 parts per trillion.

Hoosick Falls, population 3,500, is just one of several towns in the Northeast battling a legacy of contamination. EPA sent a letter to the Hoosick Falls mayor in November 2015 recommending that the village switch to an alternative drinking water source. But state and county officials knew about the contamination as early as August 2014, according to recent letters from the House Oversight Committee (*Greenwire*, July 7).

The companies did not respond to a request for comment.